

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-27, and 29-31 are currently pending. Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice; Claims 1, 7, 14, 15, and 17-25 have been amended; and Claim 31 has been added by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 13-15, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17, 18, 25-27, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,833,865 to Fuller et al. (hereinafter “the ‘865 patent”); and Claims 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘865 patent in view of the Wikipedia reference and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0041754 to Kikuchi et al. (hereinafter “the ‘754 application”).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is rendered moot by the present cancellation of that claim.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method of compressing and recording data of image information on a recording medium according to a decoding and reproducing unit comprising a plurality of frames, the method comprising: (1) performing compression of inputted image data; (2) generating additional information about the inputted image data; and (3) multiplexing an additional information block that includes the additional information generated in the generating step at a block position immediately after a navigation pack and immediately before a group of blocks that include compressed image information processed by compression encoding through the use of only image information in the decoding and reproducing unit, and recording the additional information block on the recording medium,

wherein the additional information including capturing condition values, which include at least diaphragm adjustment and exposure values. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

The '865 patent is directed to an integrated data and real-time metadata capture system, comprising: (1) a digital capture device producing a digital representation of one or more forms of media content; (2) a feature extraction engine configured to automatically extract metadata in real time from the digital content simultaneously with encoding of the content; (3) a storage device configured to store the encoded media content in the metadata; and (4) an output interface in communication with the storage device to generate output data while preserving a temporal relationship between a sequence of the metadata and additional content. As shown in Figure 1, the '865 patent also discloses collateral data input unit storing metadata related to the device state, which can be formatted with the content data. Further, the '865 patent discloses that the device data information can include lens properties, enclosure values, f-stops, and audio gains. Further, the '865 patent discloses that the metadata may be combined with the content data using the MPEG-7 format or in other formats such as Apple QuickTime.²

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '865 patent fails to disclose a method of compressing and recording data of image information including the step of multiplexing an additional information block that includes the additional information generated in a generating step at a block position immediately after a navigation pack and immediately before a group of blocks that include compressed image information processed by compressed encoding, as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the '865 patent merely broadly states that the metadata may be combined with actual digital content in certain

¹ See Figure 4B and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

² See '865 patent, column 6, lines 13-22.

formatting scenarios, but does not provide specifics as to how the metadata is actually combined with the digital content.³ Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to a recording apparatus that includes a recording control means for multiplexing an additional information block that includes the additional information generated by the additional information generation means at a block position immediately after a navigation pack and immediately before a group of blocks that include compressed image information processed by compressing encoding. Similarly, Claim 25 is directed to an imaging apparatus that includes a similar recording control means. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 7 and 25 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '754 application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 19-24 are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 19-24. Claims 19-24 have been rewritten as independent claims to incorporate limitations recited in Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 19-24 are rendered moot and that the Wikipedia reference and the '754 application fail to remedy the deficiencies of the '865 patent, as discussed above, with respect to the recording of the additional information.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claim 31 for examination on the merits. New Claim 31, which depends from Claim 1, clarifies that the multiplexing step comprises multiplexing only one additional information block in a video object unit corresponding to each group of blocks. See Figure 4B. Accordingly, no new matter has been added and

³ See '865 patent, column 6, lines 1-35.

Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 31 patentably defines over the cited references.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7, and 19-25 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '865 patent, the '754 application, and the Wikipedia reference.

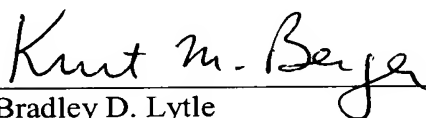
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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